

Jonah and the God Who Pursues and Restores

Jonah is a prophet who is called to deliver a warning of judgment to a rebellious nation. He runs from his calling at every turn, showing little faith in Yahweh. But eventually he goes to the city of Nineveh to deliver God's message. In this 2 week series we will learn more about the God who pursues and restores.

Week 2: *The God Who Restores* (Emmanuel Dominguez)

1. **God restores after disobedience. Read Jonah 3:1-3.** What resonates with you the most about Jonah getting a second chance and his response to it? Follow up: What does that show you about God's character and His desire to continue to work with and through us?
2. In **Jonah 3:4**, *Jonah doesn't mention God's mercy or restoration, only the judgment.* Why do you think Jonah failed to fully communicate God's message of restoration to the people of Nineveh? Follow up: Can you think of a time when you've held back from sharing God's love and grace with others? What might have caused that reluctance?
3. **God restores after darkness. Read Jonah 3:5-10.** *Jonah's experience with Nineveh shows God's willingness to restore even those who have been in darkness for generations.* How does this demonstrate God's mercy and grace, especially in contexts where we might deem certain individuals or groups as beyond redemption? How should that change us?
4. **God restores after disillusion. Read Jonah 4:1-4.** *Jonah expresses frustration and anger towards God's decision to show mercy to Nineveh despite their repentance.* Have you ever felt similarly conflicted about God's mercy towards someone or a situation that you believed deserved judgment? How did you reconcile your feelings with God's character?
5. **Read Jonah 4:5-11.** Reflecting on Jonah's frustration in chapter 4, have you ever struggled with aligning your heart with God's when it comes to showing mercy and compassion to others, particularly those you might see as undeserving? How did you overcome it?
6. *Jonah's story emphasizes God's ability to restore individuals and communities, even after moments of disobedience and disillusionment.* How does this message of restoration apply to our lives today, especially in times of struggle or doubt? How does this encourage you?
7. **God can restore you, no matter what you've gone through.** In what ways can you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and allow Him to work in areas of your life that need restoration? Follow up: What specific areas of your life do you feel need restoration, and how can you actively seek God's guidance and transformation in those areas? How may we help?

